Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of the Burgh of Rothesay for the year ended 31st December 1893

During the year there were 186 deaths registered. These with an estimated population of 9293 give a death rate of 20 per 1000 per annum.
Of the 186 deaths registered 24 are marked with an asterisk as having been deaths of persons who were only a very short time resident here. When these 24 deaths are deducted from the total we get an annual mortality of 17.5 per 1000 persons living.

On several previous occasions I have adverted to some circumstances which render the general or crude death-rate of a place like Rothesay of very little value as a guide to the relative excellence of the Public Health of the place.

The extreme mildness of the climate of Rothesay induces many persons more or less broken down in health to take up permanent residence amongst us.

Another large proportion of our immigrants come here to spend the evening of their lives: They are already well advanced in years being generally between 65 and 70 years old. These aged and invalid classes then unduly burden our mortality statistics.

The custom of omitting certain deaths as being those of visitors when calculating the mortality statistics is necessarily an

arbitrary one, so long as the period of residence of our visitors has such a wide a range as from a few days to several months.

Better tests of the healthiness of a place than its general death rate are

1st The Infantile death rate — the death rate among infants under one year.

2nd The death rate among those under 5 years.

3rd The Zymotic death rate i.e. the death rate from the seven chief Zymotic diseases.

The Infantile death rate for the year 1893 in Rothesay was 85·8 per 1000 births or per 1000 persons living under one year.

The deaths under one year were 20

The births during 1893 were 233

233 ; 1000 :: 20 : 85·8.

The Infantile mortality for England in 1886 was 149 per 1000 while the rates for the various counties ranged from 88 in Westmorland to 174 in Lancashire. The rate in Rothesay was therefore lower than the lowest English county rate and less than half the highest.

The death-rate of those under 5 years of age in Rothesay in 1893 was 39 per 1000 persons living under 5 years. To get the population under 5 years I add all the births during the past 5 years and subtract deaths at under

Births in			Deaths in			
1889	=	228	1889	under 1 year		36
1890	=	210	1890	" 2 years		37
1891	=	210	1891	" 3 "		30
1892	=	214	1892	" 4 "		45
1893	=	233				148
		1095				

1095 − 148 = 947 population under 5 years old

During 1893 there occurred 37 deaths under 5 years old.

947 : 1000 :: 37 : 39

For all England during 1887 the annual death rate under 5 years of age was

Males 57.8 per 1000 Females 48.9 per 1000.

The Zymotic death rate for the year 1893 in Rothesay was .96 per 1000 living.

9293 : 1000 :: 9 : .96

Smallpox	0
Measles	0
Scarlet Fever	2
Diphtheria	1
Hooping Cough	1
Fevers (continued)	2
Diarrhoea	3
	9

The notifications under the "Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act" 1889 were as under the total being 70

A considerable number of the cases of Scarlet Fever and some of the Enteric cases were clearly found to be imported from other parts of the country.

Diphtheria & Croup.	8
Erysipelas	17
Scarlet Fever	23
Enteric "	18
Typhus "	2
Continued "	2
	70

Of the 70 notified cases 20 were treated in the Hospital.

Andrew Stalker M.D. D.P.H.

13 BATTERY PLACE,
ROTHESAY.

17th Mar 1894

Dear Sir,

Herewith I send my last annual report of the Public Health of the Burgh of Rothesay. My practice has been to give the Local authority a short Monthly Statement and intermittent Special reports as occasion demanded. I do not

think
that any of the
past reports contain
anything of much
general interest.
I shall be pleased
to send the annual
reports in future
Yours Sincerely
Andrew J. Hall. Md.

Spencer Honeyman Esqr
Librarian
B M Association